

DTSC Status: Developing a Health-Based Methamphetamine Cleanup Standard July 6, 2007

Goal

The goal is to develop a methamphetamine health-based cleanup standard prior to October 1, 2007, the statutory mandated date. However, finalizing the standard will depend on the outcome and comments received through rigorous scientific peer reviews and the public workshop process.

Status

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is working under a contract with DTSC to develop a health-based target remediation criterion for methamphetamine for an indoor setting using children as the sensitive receptor. OEHHA's responsibilities are to:

1. develop a meth reference dose (RfD)
2. oversee a contract with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to determine the dermal absorption rate for methamphetamine
3. use the most appropriate U.S. EPA exposure model to calculate the meth cleanup standard.

At this point, OEHHA has completed the methamphetamine RfD, has preliminary dermal absorption data from UCSF, and has obtained and is testing two U.S. EPA exposure models. These three key factors will come together to generate a methamphetamine health-based cleanup criterion.

Once OEHHA has calculated the health-based methamphetamine cleanup criterion and prepared a draft report explaining the procedures they use, the report will undergo an internal OEHHA scientific peer review as well as external scientific peer reviews to validate all aspects of the study. Additionally, the report is subject to a public workshop and comment period where interested stakeholders may review the document and provide comments. All comments will be addressed and incorporated into the report as appropriate. This rigorous review process will ensure that the methamphetamine health-based cleanup criterion has a strong scientific basis for DTSC to develop the methamphetamine cleanup standard.

Background

Senate Bill 536 (Bowen, ch. 587, stats. 2005) directs DTSC to:

1. Develop sampling and analytical procedures for meth residue
2. By October 1, 2007, develop a health-based target remediation standard for meth with guidance from OEHHA
3. By October 1, 2008, develop health-based target remediation standards for iodine, methyl iodide, and phosphine, to the extent funding is available
4. By October 1, 2009, adopt investigation and cleanup procedures for use in remediating meth lab contaminated sites

Assembly Bill 1078 (Keene, ch. 570, stats. 2005) established a meth cleanup standard of 0.1 micrograms per 100 square centimeters, which would be replaced by a health-based target remediation standard when adopted by DTSC. AB 1078 also directs DTSC to:

1. Conduct two public workshops, one in northern California and one in Southern California for the purpose of discussing with affected stakeholders the actions needed to further implement the goals of this chapter.

Past Workshops and Clinics

In 2006, DTSC in collaboration with the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health held three clinics to assist local agencies, industrial hygienists, and cleanup contractors with understand their roles and responsibilities as dictated by this new law.

On February 12, 2007, DTSC held a public workshop on methamphetamine contaminated property at the 9th annual California Unified Program Annual Conference. About 150 stakeholders, consultants, representatives from law enforcement, CUPAs and other local implementing agencies attended the workshop. While the focus of the workshop was on discussing ways to improve existing laws to clean up methamphetamine-contaminated property, such as houses, recreational vehicles, and mobile homes, the status of DTSC's and OEHHA's progress towards developing a methamphetamine cleanup standard was also discussed.